

WHY DID PRESIDENT CLINTON AND AL GORE VETO EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY?

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, there is an important question that we should be asking every day; and that is, is it right, is it fair that under our Tax Code a married, working couple, a husband and wife, with two incomes pays higher taxes just because they are married? Is it right, is it fair that under our Tax Code 21 million married, working couples pay on average \$1,400 more just because they are married?

Back home in the south suburbs of Chicago, a machinist and a school teacher making a combined income of \$62,000 pay on average \$1,400.

That is 1 year's tuition at Joliet Junior College. That is 3 months' daycare at a local day-care center.

The question of the day, my colleagues, is why did President Clinton and AL GORE veto our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty? Is it because the President and AL GORE want to spend that money rather than eliminating the marriage tax penalty?

When Bill Clinton and AL GORE vetoed our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty, they broke the hearts of 21 million hard-working, married, working couples who should have their marriage tax penalty eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, let us work together, let us work in a bipartisan way to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

REASON TO CELEBRATE: CONGRESS HAS NOT SPENT ONE NICKEL OF SOCIAL SECURITY ON ANYTHING ELSE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, take I-16 right out of Savannah, go about 20 miles west and make a left on Highway 280, go through Pembroke, go through Daisy, and approach Evans County, Georgia, and there on the left-hand side is a little, one-story greenhouse; and in there lives Ms. Edna Thompson. I am going to make up the name, but this is true.

Edna Thompson lives there. She has been a widow for 17 years. She is on a fixed income. We call it Social Security. She always talks to me and worries about what is happening to my Social Security. I hear they are spending money in Kosovo. I hear they are going to increase foreign aid. I hear a lot of things about spending money in new programs. But are they taking it out of Social Security?

Today I can look her in the eye and say, no, ma'am. In 1999, for the first time in modern history, Congress has not spent one nickel of her Social Security.

But do not take my word for it. Today they can get this from the official Congressional Budget Office that, for 1 year, Congress has not spent one nickel of Social Security on anything but Social Security.

It is reason to celebrate.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, September 20, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on October 8, 1999 at 3:20 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits a report on the continued production of the naval petroleum reserves beyond April 5, 2000.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHIL.

CONTINUED PRODUCTION OF NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-142)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 201(3) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (10 U.S.C. 7422(c)(2)), I am informing you of my decision to extend the period of production of the naval petroleum reserves for a period of 3 years from April 5, 2000, the expiration date of the currently authorized period of production.

Attached is a copy of the report investigating the necessity of continued production of the reserves as required by 10 U.S.C. 7422(c)(2)(B). In light of the findings contained in that report, I certify that continued production from the naval petroleum reserves is in the national interest.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 8, 1999.

#### CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the bill on the Corrections Calendar.

ADDING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY TO LIST OF DAYS ON WHICH FLAG SHOULD ESPECIALLY BE DISPLAYED

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 576) to amend title 4, United States Code, to add the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday to the list of days on which the flag should especially be displayed.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 576

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 6(d) of title 4, United States Code, is amended by inserting "Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the third Monday in January;" after "January 20;"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 576 would add the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday to the list of days on which the flag should be especially displayed.

Currently, section 6 of title 4 of the United States Code, which designates the time and occasions for the display of the United States flag, provides that the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on all days and then lists certain days that it should especially be displayed. The list contains nine Federal holidays.

□ 1415

In fact, all of the Federal holidays, except for the holiday honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., our Nation's great civil rights leader.

The nine other permanent Federal holidays are listed in the Flag Code to remind Americans to show respect and appreciation for the individuals and events that have had such a profound influence on the history and success of our great Nation. Regrettably, and apparently due to simple oversight at the time the King holiday became a Federal law in 1983, it was not added to the list in the Flag Code. And so it is right to take this measure up on the Corrections Calendar here today.

H.R. 576 is very simple. It will correct the oversight that left the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday off the list in the U.S. Flag Code of days on which Americans are urged to display the American flag. Identical legislation passed the House last year. Unfortunately, it passed on the last day of the 105th Congress and did not become law.

H.R. 576 deserves our bipartisan support. I urge the Members of the House to join together in correcting this oversight in the Flag Code. By adding the King holiday to the Flag Code and asking Americans to display the flag on the day we honor Dr. King, we will encourage Americans to honor Dr. King and his magnificent efforts to advance civil and human rights in America.